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GENERAL NOTES.

Solar Parallax from the Photographic Right Ascensions of Eros, at the Opposition of 1900.—After a discussion of all the photographs of *Eros* taken in the memorable co-operative solar parallax campaign of 1900-01, Mr. ARTHUR R. HINKS, to whom the supervision of the monumental task of reduction was entrusted, has just published his adopted value of the solar parallax, derived from the measured right ascensions. His result is

$$8''.807 \pm 0''.0027.$$

Regarding the photographic declinations and the micrometric observations, Mr. HINKS says: "In the Lick and Cambridge series the (photographic) declinations were not measured. At Greenwich they were discussed, and gave the same value of the parallax as the right ascensions, but with very little weight. I do not think it worth while to discuss the remaining observations of declination. The discussion of the micrometric observations is practically complete, and will be presented without delay."—*Monthly Notices R. A. S.*, May, 1909.

We are pleased to learn from *Science* that Professor GALLE has just celebrated his ninety-seventh birthday. It is interesting to note that it was he who suggested and directed the first co-operative observation of an asteroid for solar parallax. In 1873, *Flora*, the nearest known asteroid of the time, was observed co-operatively by twelve observatories.

Notes from "Science."—Mr. H. F. NEWALL has been elected to the recently founded professorship of astrophysics at the University of Cambridge.

Astronomy shares with physics the loss of a valuable friend in the death of Professor ALBERT BROWN PORTER of "The Scientific Shop" of Chicago.

SIMON NEWCOMB died at his home in Washington July 11th at the age of 74 years.

178 *Publications of the Astronomical Society, &c.*

Mr. F. H. SEARES, formerly instructor of astronomy in the University of California, has resigned the position of professor of astronomy and director of the Lick Observatory of the University of Missouri to become superintendent of the computing division of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory of the Carnegie Institution.

Professor NEWCOMB's library is offered for sale. He was especially anxious that the library should not be divided, but should belong to some institution in which astronomical and kindred branches of research are carried on. It is thought to be the most complete library of its kind in America except, perhaps, that at Harvard.

A temporary meteorological and astronomical observation station at an altitude of about 14,000 feet is to be erected immediately on Mount Whitney, California, by the Smithsonian Institution.

Dr. FRITZ COHN, astronomer in the Observatory at Königsberg, has been called to a chair of astronomy at Berlin.
